



B O R O U G H O F D E A L

A N N U A L R E P O R T

for

1 9 4 2

on the

HEALTH O F DEAL

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

D U D L E Y W . K I R K

M.B., Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health and Medical Officer
to the Education Authority for the
Borough of Deal



BOROUGH OF DEAL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

November 1941 to November 1942

Chairman

Councillor Tudor Davies, J.P.

Vice-Chairman

Councillor A. H. Pargeter

Members

His Worship the Mayor (Alderman E. J. Dobson, J.P.)

Alderman R. O. Rowe

Alderman J. Waller

Councillor G. H. Askham

Councillor C. B. Crump

" Dr. G. T. Birdwood

" Mrs. B. Mantle

" G. Brenshley

" G. H. Fowler

Councillor Fr. D. Moriarty

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer

Dudley W. Kirk, M.B., Ch.B.

Senior Sanitary and Foods Inspector,

J. Phil Byng, Cert.S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

General Assistant (Temporary)

Frank Harrison-Smith

Clerical Assistant (Temporary)

Miss Eileen R. Austin

BOROUGH OF DEAL

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for
the year 1942

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Deal.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1942. This report has been abridged in accordance with the Ministry's requirements but includes all the necessary vital statistics.

Once again I am pleased to report that the general health of the community has, throughout another war year, remained at a high standard and no particular item calls for outstanding comment.

The birth rate shews a very definite increase and stands at 18.69, which is the highest the town has attained in the last 10 years. The death rate, however, shews a slight increase which can be attributed to factors known to the members. These rates compare very favourably with the average for the country.

Infectious Disease which has remained for some time at a satisfactory low level shews a further decline in numbers for 1942.

As forecast last year, the department has been able to develop and markedly increase its inspection work for it will be seen that the number of visits paid by our staff has been more than doubled. This has been, in part, due to the retention of staff and a more settled central office, and these factors have enabled the department to retain its methods of organisation.

This department also has the charge, direction and organisation of the Deal A.R.P. Casualty Service which has, throughout the year, acted promptly and shewn its ability in meeting emergencies.

Finally, I desire to express thanks and appreciation to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their co-operation and guidance. In this I would desire to mention the Town Clerk, Borough Surveyor and Borough Accountant with their staffs, and the members of the A.R.P. Office, all of whom who have, during 1942, always given assistance and co-operation which is much appreciated.

I have the honour of being, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Duality W Kirk

M.B., Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area

The area of the Borough is 2,917 acres, exclusive of the foreshore. No alteration in the area has been made since 1935.

The Rateable Value on 31st December, 1942, was £153, 926
and the sum represented by a Penny Rate - £350

Social Conditions

As in previous reports.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births (for calculating Birth & Infantile Mortality Rate)

Rate per 1,000 of the residential population 18.69

Still Births

Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still Births) 25.64

Deaths

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the residential population... .. 15.82

Death from Puerperal Causes (Registrar-General's list)

No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis Nil

No. 30 Other Maternal causes Nil

Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age

All Infants per 1,000 Live births 21.93

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate births.. .. 18.78

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate births... .. 66.67

		Male	Female
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	 20	9	11

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)... .. Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (Under 2 yrs.) Nil

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Public Health Staff

A more stable position has been attained than in the previous year in the running of the department in that we have been fortunate to retain our small staff. Work has much increased and we have had to meet all obligations still without a second Sanitary Inspector. In conjunction with other Municipal departments, the offices were moved in November, 1942, from the town area and are now situated at 'Cherry Orchard', London Road, Deal. This transfer has in no way impaired the working or accessibility to the public, indeed it has been possible to perform more steadily the several obligations we have

had to meet.

An additional complication has been thrown on the department by Food Enforcement work which has fallen largely on the shoulders of the Senior Sanitary Inspector. Definite arrangements are in progress whereby this extra and extensive duty can be carried on for the Food Committee through the good offices of the Public Health Staff.

Laboratory Facilities

These continue to give good service through the Kent County Council Laboratories at Maidstone.

Ambulance Facilities

These are, as stated in previous reports; that is, our Borough Ambulance is available for transport of infections to the Eastry Isolation Hospital. Civil cases are dealt with through the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, Deal, and the A.R.P. Casualty Service is prepared to meet any emergency which cannot be otherwise dealt with. These arrangements have worked very satisfactorily through a difficult year and consideration will be asked in future as to the provision of a more recognised Ambulance Service which may well be bound up with plans which might develop through the re-organisation of any hospital system we may have in the town.

Nursing in the Home

The position here is tolerably satisfactory but for this we rely on the District Nursing Association which supplies two highly qualified midwife-nurses. The area for these women is large and in my opinion the staff could well do with extra help. Nevertheless, I have not heard of any instance where the Association has been unable to meet its demands.

Midwives

The administration of the Midwives Act remains as previously reported, i.e. under the jurisdiction of the Kent County Council.

Clinic and Treatment Centres

These have been again re-established as in pre-war days. The Ante-natal clinics at St. George's and Glynn Vivian Mission together with the Mother and Child Welfare Centres at St. George's, Glynn Vivian, Mongeham and Walmer are all run under the jurisdiction of the Kent County Council.

After a difficult year in 1941, the School Service once more attained its routine and re-opened a new clinic with a new nursing staff for the treatment of school children in dental diseases and minor ailments.

Scabies

In pursuance of the Order on Scabies, public cleansing facilities with a volunteer staff were opened at the First Aid Post. This institution has proved a great benefit to the community, of which a large proportion of the working classes, were during the year infected. This cleansing centre has, without doubt, played a considerable part in reducing the prevalence of scabies which, at the end of the year, had been so lessened as to cause but little concern. All practitioners, Health Visitors and other interested people have been made fully aware of the facilities and the importance of notifying this disease, and their co-operation in the matters continues to be whole-hearted.

Hospitals

All infectious cases occurring in the Borough are now conveyed to and treated at the Eastry Council's Isolation Hospital, situated at

Eastry.

This Council's Isolation Hospital, although not in use as a Hospital, is available and earmarked for sundry uses in an emergency which may arise.

Cases of smallpox, when notified, are removed to the smallpox hospital at Poulton under the Dover Borough Authority. No use was made of this hospital by us during 1942. Proposals have been received from the County inviting us to join with other authorities in sending our cases to a hospital yet to be definitely designated, but probably at Dislingbury (Nr. Orpington). We await further information from the County on this matter.

The Deal, Walmer and District War Memorial Hospital in London Road comprised men's, women's and children's wards, private wards, operating theatre, staff quarters, X-ray and Ophthalmic departments, facilities for radium and radiant heat treatments, electro-therapeutic, massage and outpatient departments.

Health Visitors

In this area, these are governed by the Kent County Council. I would like to express my appreciation of the co-operation given by these nurses to this department. Dependent on conditions and advance of the town to come, here again it will come for consideration as to whether we shall require our own health visitor or visitors to meet the many demands in observation and the general interest of the community.

Diphtheria Immunisation

A tremendous amount of propaganda and work through this department has been effected during the year in order to secure a high percentage of immunised children in the Borough. The estimated percentage at the end of 1942 of children immunised was approximately 55, which I feel is creditable. There is, of course, amongst a certain number of people still antipathy to this treatment and this, in spite of National and Local advice and propaganda, is extremely difficult to dispel. Nevertheless, with the rapidly increasing school work amongst school children, I anticipate that the percentage during the forthcoming year will shew a good increase and venture to suggest that our figures compare favourably with other parts of the country.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

As in previous reports.

The output of water supplied to Deal and Walmer is recorded by meters installed at the Waterworks.

The quantity delivered during the twelve months under review was as follows:

226,377,900 gallons

This figure gives a daily average of 603,670 gallons.

The supply is constant and the standard of purity is very satisfactory. As a safeguard against the possibility of contamination all water is chlorinated at the sumps by the Chloramine Process.

The areas of Great Mongeham and Sholden are supplied from water mains owned and maintained by the East Kent District Water Company of Snodland. No output figures are available for this particular part of the district.

There are only 27 dwellinghouses in the Borough which are dependent upon well water for their domestic use. These premises are not within

reasonable distance of a water main.

Bacteriological sampling of the public water supply is undertaken at frequent periods and includes samples of both unchlorinated and chlorinated water. These samples are submitted in rotation for examination to:-

The Clinical Research Association Ltd.
The Kent County Council.

Drainage and Sewerage

As in previous reports

Closet Accommodation

As in 1940 Report

Rivers and Streams

As in previous reports

Public Cleansing

As in previous reports

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Your Public Health Staff undertakes the necessary inspections of the district for the purposes provided for by the Public Health Acts, Regulations, Orders and Byelaws in force in the Borough and records are kept for reference. Amongst others, the duties include the inspection of factories, workshops, etc., dwellinghouses, farms, dairies and milk-shops, slaughterhouses, shops and vehicles, meat and other foods, bake-houses, common lodging-houses and all places where food is prepared for sale.

Shops

During the year no action was necessary regarding the ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences of shops under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.

Camping Sites

There is only one licensed camping site in the Borough where satisfactory sanitary arrangements and water supply are provided and maintained. No use was made of this site during 1942.

Smoke Abatement

No action was found necessary during the year with respect to the emission of smoke from factory or other premises.

Swimming Baths and Pools

There are none of these available in the Area

Eradication of Bed Bugs

During the past year the following action was taken for the eradication of bed bugs:-

1. (a) Houses found infested:

Council Houses	...	...	...	1
Private Houses	...	...	...	14

(b) Houses disinfected:

Council Houses	...	...	...	1
Private Houses	...	...	...	14

2. Methods employed in disinfecting houses:

(a) By Sulphur, Formalin and Climex	...	Nil
(b) By spraying with Insecticide	...	15
(c) By gassing with H.C.N.	...	Nil

Schools

During the year it was possible to re-institute normal school hours for the children and the medical supervision and work proportionately increased. Towards the end of the year, full medical services had once again been re-instituted and centred on new clinic premises in Cowper Road, Deal. Here the School Minor Ailments and Dental Clinics were re-commenced and with a new nursing staff all the former medical facilities were again in operation for the children.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928

As in previous reports

Below in tabular form is given the report furnished by the Sanitary Inspector under Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:-

TABLE OF WORK OF SANITARY INSPECTORS

Animal Keeping	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Accumulation of manure and other refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Bakehouse Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Cesspools Emptied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Disinfestation of Premises, inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Drains cleared or cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Drains reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Factories, Workshops etc. inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Gutters and Downspouts repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Inquiries into Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Food preparing premises, including Meat Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	227
Licensed Premises and places of Public Entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Offensive trades, inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Public Shelters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Rats and Mice Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	441
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Sanitary bins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Sinks renewed or repaired and traps provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Slaughterhouse inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Smoke abatement	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Unclean premises dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Waterclosets, structural defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Water Supplies, inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Walls repaired or treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Windows renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Works in progress, inspections during	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	545
Yards, paved or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	314
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

HOUSING

As in previous reports.

No building by private enterprise or by the Local Authority took place during 1942.

Housing Statistics

The following table shews the total number of dwellinghouses inspected and the result of action taken under the Public Health Act, 1936, and the Housing Act, 1936.

Public Health Act, 1936

Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	1248
Number of inspections made for that purpose	...	...	...	...	1688
Number of Informal Notices served requiring nuisances to be abated.	...	...	...	...	314
Number of Abatement Notices served and complied with	...	...	...	...	10

Housing Act, 1936

Number of houses inspected and recorded..	...	...	...	...	13
Number of Inspections made for that purpose...	...	...	...	...	14
Number of Informal Notices served requiring repairs to be carried out (Section 9)...	...	...	...	...	-
Number of Statutory Notices served under Section 9 and complied with.	...	...	...	...	-

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

The dairies, cowsheds and milkshops in the Borough have been regularly inspected by your Sanitary Inspector under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Under the provision of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, the following licences were issued by the Council:-

Pasteuriser's Licences	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pasteuriser's Supplementary Licences.	...	...	...	...	...	-
Tuberculin Tested (Cert.) Dealer's Licences	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculin Tested Dealer's Licences..	...	...	...	...	...	-
Accredited Supplementary Licences	...	...	...	...	...	-

Twenty-nine samples of Graded Milk were collected for and submitted to the Kent County Council. Of these, twenty-five satisfied the prescribed tests. The appropriate remedial action was taken by the Kent County Council, who is the issuing authority for licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, in connexion with the unsatisfactory samples.

Meat and Other Foods

Up to the time of inception of Government Centralised Slaughtering, there were 10 private slaughterhouses in use in Deal, six of which were registered and four licensed.

Nine visits were made in connexion with emergency slaughtering.

The total quantity of meat and offals found unfit for human consumption during 1942 was 7 cwt. 3 $\frac{5}{8}$ lbs.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

						Cattle including Calves Cows	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	1	Nil 8
No. inspected.	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	1	Nil 8
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned..	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil Nil

The number of inspections made with respect to other food premises was 227.

As the result of these inspections the following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and were surrendered for destruction:

<u>Article</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qrs.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>
Fish	-	4	1	-
Butter... ..			1	-
Lard				2½
Cheese... ..			1	4½
Coffee... ..		2	1	13
Confectionery.				1¼
Flour				17
Cake			1	5
Fruit			1	19½
Tea				17½
Total ascertained weight		8	-	24

5 Tins Soup	)	
45 Tins Fish	)	
53 Tins Fruit	)	
9 Tins & 26lbs. Tinned Meat	)	Estimated
130 Tins Milk	)	weight
53 Tins Vegetables	)	2 cwts. 2 qrs.
24 Tins Jam	)	
4 Bottles Pickles	)	
2 Packets Custard Powder	)	

Adulteration

The following samples were taken and submitted for examination under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, by the Food and Drugs Authority during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1942 :

<u>Article</u>	<u>Number of Samples</u>	<u>Number Genuine</u>
Samples of Milk	26	23
Samples of Dry Goods ...	29	29
Samples of Drugs	7	7

With the exception of 3 samples of milk, all the samples submitted for analysis have been reported as genuine by the Public Analyst. In the case of one sample of milk, purchased from a retailer, this was found to be 10.6% deficient in fat. On further investigation, 2 samples taken from the source of supply of this milk were proved to be of inferior quality viz., the fat content was slightly below the required standard. These findings were reported to the County Council, and in this instance the milk producer was cautioned.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Infectious Diseases

The following table shews the infectious diseases notified during the year:-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases notified</u>		<u>Civilian cases admitted to Isolation Hospital</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
	<u>Civilian</u>	<u>Non-Civilian</u>		
Small Pox	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever. ...	3	1	-	-
Diphtheria	5	2	5	1
Enteric Fever, including Para-Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	4	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-
Malaria..	-	-	-	-
Measles..	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough ...	2	-	-	-
Polio-encephalitis.	-	-	-	-
Polio-myelitis ...	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-
Chicken Pox... ..	-	2	-	-
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	1	-	-	-
Mumps	-	1	-	-
Enteritis	-	1	-	-
Totals:	15	11	5	1

Disinfection

Following the notification of an infectious disease the infected premises are inspected both by myself and by the Sanitary Inspector. This is done for the purpose of tracing, if possible, the source of infection. The patients are removed to the Isolation Hospital, the bedroom and its contents, i.e. bedding and wearing apparel, are fumigated and the bedding and clothing removed for steam disinfection. Premises where home treatment of the disease has been carried out are similarly treated after the recovery of the patient.

During 1942 the disinfection of 27 rooms and of 64 articles was carried out.

There is no arrangement in the Borough that provides for the cleansing and disinfecting of verminous persons, although such appears to be advisable.

Examination of Pathological and Bacteriological Specimens

This service provided by the Kent County Council at the County Laboratory, County Hall, Maidstone, has, as previously reported, been of valuable assistance to myself and other medical men in this district.

Cancer

The number of deaths from malignant disease in this area during 1942 was:

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deal Borough	9	11	20

This gives a death rate *96 below that for 1941.

No information is available as to the incidence of cancer at any particular age or in any particular occupation.

Prevention of Blindness

One case of ophthalmic neonatorum was notified during the year, but it was not necessary to take action under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Tuberculosis

It was not necessary to take action under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to employees in the milk supply trade, nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the compulsory removal of tuberculous patients to hospital.

The following table shews the new cases and mortality relating to tuberculosis during the year 1942:-

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
5-10	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
10-15	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15-20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-25	2	3	-	-	1	-	-	-
25-35	2	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
35-45	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
45-55	1	3	-	-	-	1	-	-
55-65	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	10	8	3	1	3	3	1	1

The number of deaths from all forms of tuberculosis which had been notified was 7. The number which had not been notified was 1.

The Register, at the end of 1942, shewed the following cases of tuberculosis in the Borough:-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Male	24	6	30
Female.. ...	16	3	19
Totals:	40	9	49

BOROUGH OF DEAL

GENERAL SUMMARY

Area 2,917 acres

	<u>Deal</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 population	18.69	15.8
Annual Death Rate -do- (Crude) ...	15.82	11.6
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births... ..	21.93	49.0

Comparative figures for Deal:	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Death Rate crude</u>	<u>Infantile Death Rate</u>
1938	17.51	11.95	63.41
1939	16.64	12.94	41.34
1940	16.46	13.75	18.80
1941	17.88	14.82	27.78

Rateable Value, end of 1942... .. £153,926

Product of Penny Rate, end of 1942. £350

THE HISTORY OF THE

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CHAPTER I

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